

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /022 W

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R 251240Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0175

UNCLAS KINSHASA 8871

H PASS CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, CG

SUBJECT: CODEL SCHEUER

REF: KINSHASA 8863

1. PER REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SEVENTH OF NINE DRAFT MEMCONS OF SESSIONS ON POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS TO WHICH AN EMBASSY REPORTING OFFICER ACCOMPANIED THE CODEL.

2. PARTICIPANTS: CONGRESSMAN JAMES H. SCHEUER, MRS. EMILY SCHEUER  
MRS. POLLY GREENBERG, MS. HELEN COHEN  
MISS IMMY NIEBOER - ASSISTANT TO DR. VAN PELT  
WORKING WITH MCH/FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS IN  
KINSHASA; MR. JERRY MITCHELL - EMBASSY  
POLITICAL OFFICER

PLACE: OKAPI HOTEL, KINSHASA

TIME: 13:00 OCTOBER 10, 1976.

MISS NIEBOER BEGAN HER SECOND MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER BY STRESSING THE FUTILITY OF A PROGRAM HAVING ONLY ONE GOAL--THAT OF FAMILY PLANNING. SHE SAID THAT FAMILY PLANNING MUST BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. SHE POINTED OUT THAT EVERY SOCIETY HAS SOME FORM OF FAMILY PLANNING. FOR EXAMPLE, MANY TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES FORBID A WOMAN TO HAVE INTERCOURSE WITH HER HUSBAND UNTIL THE NEWBORN CHILD IS WEENED FROM  
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BREAST FEEDING. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT THE APPROACH TO FAMILY

PLANNING DESIRED BY MCH/FP OFFICIALS. MISS NIEBOER STATED THAT SHE PREFERRED TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM OF HEALTH EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS. SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD RELY ON THE SCHOOL LEADERS TO BEGIN THE EDUCATION PROCESS. THE CHILD WOULD THEN LEARN HEALTH EDUCATION AND BY WORD OF MOUTH THE SYSTEM WOULD SPREAD. THE FINAL RESULT WOULD BE A TOTAL HEALTH EDUCATION SYSTEM, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE TEACHING OF FAMILY PLANNING.

MISS NIEBOER THEN DISCUSSED ANOTHER TYPE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM NEEDED IN ZAIRE. SHE SAID THAT THERE WERE EIGHTEEN SCHOOLS FOR TRAINING REGISTERED NURSES IN ZAIRE. THESE SCHOOLS GRADUATE 10-15 REGISTERED NURSES PER YEAR. THERE ARE ALSO 45 SCHOOLS FOR THE TRAINING OF AUXILIARY NURSES. MISS NIEBOER STRESSED THAT SHE WOULD PREFER TO EMPHASIZE THE TRAINING OF AUXILIARY NURSES, BECAUSE MCH/FP DOES NOT REQUIRE THE SOPHISTICATED TRAINING RECEIVED BY REGISTERED NURSES. THEREFORE, SHE SAID, SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN EXPANSION OF SUCH AUXILIARY TRAINING FACILITIES TO IMPLEMENT AN EXPANDED MCH/FP PROGRAM.

CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER ASKED MISS NIEBOER TO DESCRIBE ZAIRE'S NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN.

MISS NIEBOER POINTED OUT THAT ZAIRE, AT THIS TIME, DOES NOT HAVE A NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN. HOWEVER, SHE NOTED THAT THERE IS AN UNOFFICIAL HEALTH PLAN WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. THIS UNOFFICIAL PLAN RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR DISTRICT HOSPITALS WITH DISPENSARIES LOCATED IN THE SMALLER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. THE EMPHASIS IN THESE HEALTH CENTERS WILL BE ON TOTAL COMMUNITY WELL-BEING. IN EACH CENTER THERE WILL BE A NURSE TRAINED IN PREVENTIVE AS WELL AS CURATIVE MEDICINE. THE NURSE WILL WORK WITH AGRICULTURAL AND SANITATION OFFICIALS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND TO PREVENT DISEASE. IN EACH VILLAGE THERE WILL BE A "HEALTH MOTIVATOR", A PERSON WHO WILL EDUCATE THE PEOPLE IN HIS/HER COMMUNITY, AND WHO WILL ALSO EDUCATE HIGHER RANKING HEALTH OFFICIALS AS TO THE NEEDS OF THE VILLAGERS. DR. NGWETE, MINISTER OF HEALTH, HAS ALREADY APPROVED THE PLAN AFTER RECEIVING INPUTS FROM THE RURAL AREAS--ESPECIALLY FROM THE MISSIONARIES WORKING IN RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS.

MRS. GREENBERG STRESSED THAT THE RATE OF THE PLAN'S IMPLEMENTATION IS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN ITS SUCCESS AND EVENTUAL EFFECTIVENESS.

MISS NIEBOER COMMENTED THAT THE PLAN IS BEING SLOWLY IMPLEMENTED, BUT THAT THE PLAN REQUIRES FINANCING AND TRAINED ADMIN-

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ISTRATORS IF IT IS TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT A FASTER RATE. MISS NIEBOER WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT SHE HAS WORKED IN MCH/FP IN ZAMBIA BEFORE COMING TO ZAIRE. SHE NOTED THAT SUCH PLANS MUST BE ACCEPTED BUREAUCRATICALLY, AND THAT THIS ACCEPTANCE IS A SLOW PROCESS.

THE CONGRESSMAN NOTED THAT A NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN IS NOT ALWAYS ESSENTIAL FOR A NATION TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL MCH/FP PROGRAM.

MRS. GREENBERG AGREED, EMPHASIZING THAT NATIONAL LEADERS MAY BE

RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT WHAT THEY REGARD AS A NATIONAL POPULATION PLAN. HOWEVER, IF THE PROGRAM CAN BE PRESENTED AS AN OVERALL PROGRAM CONCENTRATING ON HEALTH AND NUTRITION, IT WILL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE BY NATIONAL LEADERS.

CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER THEN ASKED MISS NIEBOER TO INDICATE WHAT, IN HER EXPERIENCE, WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES IN AFRICAN NATIONS.

MISS NIEBOER EXPLAINED THAT, IN HER EXPERIENCE, A MASSIVE INFLUX OF FOREIGNERS TO IMPLEMENT AN MCH/FP PROGRAM DOES NOT SUCCEED. WHEN THE FOREIGNERS WITHDRAW, AS THEY SURELY MUST AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, THE PROGRAM WILL GRADUALLY DETERIORATE. SHE POINTED OUT THAT COMMUNITY WIDE DEVELOPMENT IS A BETTER APPROACH. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS A VEHICLE FOR IMPROVING THE AGRICULTURAL, HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL, AND TRANSPORTATION SECTORS IN A COMMUNITY AT THE SAME TIME. MISS NIEBOER DEPLORED THE UNCOORDINATED APPROACH TO A NATION'S DEVELOPMENT SO OFTEN PRACTICED BY DONOR NATIONS. SHE EXPLAINED THAT DONOR NATIONS OFTEN LOCATE AN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN ONE COMMUNITY, A HEALTH PROJECT IN ANOTHER, AND AN EDUCATION PROJECT IN STILL ANOTHER. THUS DEVELOPMENT IS UNEVEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER ASKED MISS NIEBOER TO ESTIMATE HOW SOON ZAIRE COULD PROVIDE MCH/FP SERVICES TO 80-90 PERCENT OF THE ZAIRIANS.

MISS NIEBOER REPLIED THAT, IF A SYSTEM OF MCH/FP WERE TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE, SUCH AS THE "DESIRABLE BIRTHS" PROGRAM HEADED BY DR. SABWA, SHE ESTIMATED THAT IN 5 YEARS 80-90 PERCENT OF THE ZAIRIANS COULD BE INVOLVED IN SUCH A PROGRAM.

CONGRESSMAN SCHEUER THANKED MISS NIEBOER FOR MEETING WITH THE CODEL A SECOND TIME AND THE CONVERSATION ENDED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CODELS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CODEL SCHEUER  
**TAGS:** OREP, CG, US, (SCHEUER, JAMES H)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006